



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Mount Air Open House, Recognition Ceremony Slated

Mount Air Cultural Resource Park will bristle with activities on Saturday, October 20, 2007, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. as Fairfax County Park Authority staff members hold an open house and officials, friends and neighbors gather to remember a citizen activist who championed the preservation of this historic site.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Park Authority Board invite members of the public to join them for the open house and recognition ceremony at Mount Air Historic Site, Fairfax County's first cultural resource park which opened last year. Although the elegant house on the site was destroyed by fire years ago, visitors can experience a sense of time and place through archaeological demonstrations, interpretive presentations and displays of historic artifacts

At 2 p.m., a brief ceremony to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Catherine H. Thorsen, a citizen steward and a spirited proponent of the creation of this park will be held. A tree will be planted in her memory and a plaque unveiled. Light refreshments will follow the ceremony.

Mount Air was once a plantation built around 1750 on a 522-acre tract of land owned by Dennis McCarty and consisted of the main house, various dependency structures, barns, gardens and agricultural areas. The house ownership changed hands several times with the final owner being Elizabeth Kernan. She died in early 1992 and in May of 1992 a catastrophic fire destroyed the main house leaving only charred timbers and masonry foundations and chimneys. Shortly after the fire the Fairfax County Park Authority acquired the 15-acre site for the purpose of developing a cultural resource park.

For more information, call the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

Directions: From the Fairfax County Parkway head south to the Franconia-Springfield Parkway and take a right onto Beulah Street and follow to Telegraph Road. Make a right and go about one mile and make a left onto Accotink Road. Follow to the end and make a right onto Fisher Woods Road. The entrance to the park is on the left. Parking is limited.

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